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## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

## DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY

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June 21, 2005

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC 04-87

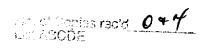
Verification of Continued Eligibility for Lifeline

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Pursuant to FCC 04-87, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("MDTE") respectfully submits this filing in compliance with the requirement that states and ETCs implement measures to verify customers' continued eligibility for Lifeline.

Massachusetts is a non-federal default criteria state, and eligibility for Lifeline/Link-Up is determined based on the consumer's participation in certain needs-based public assistance programs. In Massachusetts, the ETC is responsible for verifying the consumer's continued eligibility for Lifeline, and the MDTE has confirmed that all Massachusetts ETCs have procedures in place to verify their customers' continued eligibility for Lifeline. In addition, the MDTE's Consumer Division is able to assist any consumer who wishes to dispute the termination of their Lifeline benefits, and, consistent with MDTE dispute resolution practice, any consumer who brings such a dispute to the Consumer Division will continue to receive Lifeline benefits pending the Consumer Division's resolution of the complaint.

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FAX: (617) 345-9101 TTY: (800) 323-3298 www.mass.gov/dte The MDTE will continue to monitor the ETCs' efforts to verify their customers' continued eligibility for Lifeline in order to help ensure that only qualified participants receive assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael Isenberg

Director, Telecommunications Division